

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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12

ACTION NEA-10

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STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, EAGR, IZ

SUBJ: INVITATION TO IRAQI AGRICULTURE MINISTER

REF: A. STATE 260903; B. STATE 253484

1. USINT SUPPORTS SCOTT'S PROPOSAL THAT SECRETARY BUTZ INVITE
GOI MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND AGRARIAN REFORM DR. HASAN FAHMI
JUM'A TO VISIT UNITED STATES.

2. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS (REF B) TWO SENIOR GOI OFFICIALS WILL
ARRIVE IN HOUSTON NOVEMBER 8TH FOR TWO WEEK VISIT AS GUEST OF
US RICE COUNCIL. GROUP SCHEDULED TO MEET USDA OFFICIALS IN
WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS US RICE AND WHEAT SALES TO IRAQ.
ALTHOUGH REPRESENTING MINISTRY OF ECONOMY RATHER THAN MINISTRY
OF AGRICULTURE, SENIOR MEMBER OF PAIR, MR. ABU TALIB AL-HASHIMI,
CHAIRMAN OF IRAQI GRAIN BOARD, HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS LONG-TIME
MEMBER OF BAATH PARTY LEADERSHIP, INCLUDING BRIEF PERIOD IN
1963 ON REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL. HE IS THOUGH TO BE CLOSE
TO PRESIDENT BAKR AND SADDAM HUSSEIN. IF HIS VISIT HAS GONE
WELL UP TO NOVEMBER 19, IT MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR HIM TO MAKE
COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY BUTZ DURING WHICH SECRETARY MIGHT
INFORMALLY INDICATE HIS INTENTION TO INVITE JUM'A TO VISIT USA.

3. BELIEVE IT WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL, PRIOR TO ISSUE OF FORMAL
INVITATION, FOR USINT TO TAKE SOUNDING VERBALLY WITH MFA.
MINISTER JUM'A WOULD BE NATURAL CABINET LEVEL GOI OFFICIAL
TO INVITE AT THIS TIME. HIS MINISTRY WILL PROBABLY COMMAND
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BETWEEN 30 AND 40 PERCENT OF IRAQ'S TOTAL DEVELOPEMENT SPENDING

IN 1976-1981 FIVE YEAR PLAN AND US FIRMS HAVE BEGUN TO SELL OR ARE TRYING HARD TO SELL IN SEVERAL PORTIONS OF AGRICULTURAL SECTOR: POULTRY, LIVESTOCK, EGGS, CANNED AND FROZEN MEATS AND PROCESSED FOODS AS WELL AS BULK WHEAT AND RICE, SEEDS, TRACTORS, COMBINES, CROPDUSTER AIRCRAFT AND RELATED ITEMS.

4. RECENT INVITATION FOR US TO PARTICIPATE IN OCTOBER 1976 BAGHDAD INTERNATIONAL FAIR, (SEPTEL), LAST MONTH'S VIP TREATMENT FOR MISSISSIPPI GOVERNOR WALLER, GROWING WILLINGNESS OF PRIVATE IRAQI BUSINESSMEN TO ATTEND USINT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS ALL INDICATE THAT CLIMATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH IRAQ HAS IMPROVED TO POINT WHERE WE COULD EXTEND INVITATION TO AN IRAQI CABINET MEMBER, PARTICULARLY ONE PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH ECONOMIC MATTERS. IN OUR APPROACH TO MFA AND IN PROPOSED DISCUSSION BETWEEN SECRETARY BUTZ AND DIRECTOR GENERAL AL-HASHIMI ABOUT INVITATION TO MINISTER, BELIEVE THE ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPEMENTAL ASPECTS OF VISIT SHOULD BE PLAYED UP AND POLITICAL ASPECTS PLAYED DOWN.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING AUTHORIZATION TO MAKE ORAL APPROACH TO MFA ALONG LINES INDICATED ABOVE. PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED ABOUT POSSIBLE BUTZ-HASHIMI CONTACT. WILEY

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